LEVEL ONE

Central China Record.

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CENTRAL CHINA MISSION OF THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

Vol. 6. No. 12. NANKING. December, 1903.

According to your faith be it unto you.

Prayer-cycle of our Mission. 1 Sam. 12:23.

MONDAY, CHINKIANG. THURSDAY, KIUKIANG.
TUESDAY, NANKING. FRIDAY, NANCHANG.
WEDNESDAY, WUHU. SATURDAY, CHIENCHANG.
SUNDAY, THE ENTIRE MISSION.

CENTRAL CHINA MISSIONARIES.

(*Photographed July, 1903*).

F. G. HENKE. A. J. BOWEN. Dr. M. R. CHARLES. J. F. WILSON. H. F. ROWE. E. JAMES. D. W. NICHOLS. W. F. WILSON. Dr. E. H. HART. R. E. MACLEAN. MRS. WALLEY. Miss HANZLIK. C. F. KUPFER. Bishop MOORE. W. C. LONGDEN. Dr. R. C. BEE & E.

The Central Conference of China.

The third session of China Central Conference was held in Nanking Nov. 5th–11th under the Presidency of Bishop D. H. Moore. This conference is composed of delegates, lay and ministerial, from all the different conferences and missions of the Methodist Episcopal Church in China. There are five of these, namely the North China and the Foochow Conferences, the Hinghua Mission Conference, and the Central and West China Missions.

Delegates from all but the West China Mission were present at the opening of the Conference, although several delegates from North China were delayed two days by storms.

The first of these conferences was held in 1897; the second in 1899. The unusually large expenses for those travelling from the distant parts of our fields, for which no provision is made by the Missionary Society has made it necessary to hold this conference only once in four years. Even under these conditions the West China Mission was not represented at the present conference. If the central conference is to be thoroughly representative it would seem that some method should be found that no mission need fail to be fully represented.

The Object of this Conference as stated in the constitution is to have the supervision of the Educational, Publishing, and such other connectional interests and work as may be committed to it by the several annual and mission conferences and missions in China.

Since the organization of the first central conference several important changes have been brought about which have affected all our China missions.

The most important of these has been the establishment in Shanghai of a Methodist Publishing House. This was formed by the Union of the M. E. Church and the M. E. Church South in this concern so that now we have a very successful plant for one so newly organized.

Another change which has taken place is the appointment of a General Superintendent for a term of four years instead of two. The present conference has sent the request to the General Conference to permit this plan to be continued for at least another four years.

Nanking has furnished a more satisfactory place for meeting than Shanghai, all entertaining being done in private homes. This provides means for a closer association and fuller informal discussions, and mutual understandings than when the delegates are more widely scattered or entertained in hotels.

The Present Conference.

The Delegates: Besides ten Chinese delegates the following foreign missionary delegates were present.

Foochow Conference, Clerical: Revs. W. H. Lacy, J. H. Worley, M. C. Wilcox, and F. Ohlinger. Lay: Mrs. W. H. Lacy, Miss S. M. Bosworth, Mrs. J. H. Worley, and Prof. C. M. Lacey Sites.

North China Conference, Clerical: Revs. J. H. Pyke and N. S. Hopkins, M.D. Lay, Dr. M. Terry.

Hinghua Mission Conference, clerical: Revs. W. N. Brewster and T. B. Owen. Lay: Mrs. W. N. Brewster.

Central China Mission, Clerical: Revs. W. C. Longden and R. E Maclean. Lay: Miss Gertrude Howe, E. H. Hart, M.D., and J. F. Wilson.

All other members of our missions who were present, and some prospective members were invited to sit with the conference as "visiting members," having all the privileges of the conference except voting.

The Organization.—Bishop D. H. Moore, who was present throughout almost all the entire conference, presided at all but two sessions. On several different occasions he addressed the conference on questions of moment.

W. H. Lacy and Prof. C. M. Lacey Sites, were chosen secretary, and assistant secretary repectively, W. C. Longden, statistical secretary, and J. H. Worley and D. W. Nichols as interpreters.

Important actions.—Much of the preliminary discussions was done in the committees, but several reports brought out a good deal of discussion before the conference.

Probably the most important of these was that in regard to the election of a Missionary Bishop. The committee who first formulated the resolution were unable to agree. After much discussion four voted against the appointment of a missionary bishop, three in favor of the same, and one did not vote.

In the discussion before the conference new light was brought to bear, and it was almost unanimously decided that *at present* it is best not to change our present plan.

Another important action was the consolidation or centralization of our publications in Shanghai with a General Editor for the same.

At present our chief publications are as follows,

1. *The Chinese Christian Advocate, Hua Mei Pao*, a monthly, printed in Chinese for the information, instruction, and edification of the church.

2. *The Forum*, a quarterly, which furnishes a means for general discussion of important questions which arise from time to time and are of interest to all our missions throughout China. This is printed in English.

3. *The Book Review*, in Chinese, also a quarterly, largely for the benefit of students and preachers.

4. The local papers of the several different missions, the *Fukien Witness*, the *West China Messenger*, and the CENTRAL CHINA RECORD. The suggestion in regard to the last three being that they be consolidated and called by the name of the *China Methodist Herald.*

Spencer Lewis of the West China Mission was chosen as General Editor for all publications. Local Editors being chosen for the different sections of the field.

Another interesting part of the program was the address by Miss Lillian Marks of India upon her work for the relief of famine sufferers. It was a most thrilling story of whole-souled consecration.

The Sermon by the Bishop on Sunday afternoon before the foreign members of the conference, and the rest of the foreign community was also filled with earnest entreaties for complete devotion to the cause in which we are engaged.

Reinforcements.—During the conference it was decided to cable for the appointment of Dr. V. C. Hart, a former member of the Central China Mission, to the Deanship of the Theological department in Nanking University.

CENTRAL CHINA RECORD.

THE RECORD is published monthly, in Nanking, by the Central China Mission, of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

Rates including postage :—

In China, 30c. per annum, Mex.
Foreign, 30c. ,, ,, Gold.
Ten copies to one address, $2.00.

EDITORS.

Chinkiang, ... *Edward James.*
Kiukiang, ... *F. G. Henke.*
Nanchang, ... *R. E. Maclean.*
Wuhu, ... *H. F. Rowe.*

Advertising Editor,
John F. Wilson,
Kiukiang.

Managing Editor,
Wilbur F. Wilson,
Nanking.

Mr. John Yost, and Miss Dora Jones two new missionaries for West China were also present at the conference.

The next session of the conference is to be held at Foochow sometime in November, 1907.

W. F. W.

Strive Ahead.

The following is an appeal from one of the students who went out from the Theological school last year. It is left in his own words and form of expression, that you may some how enter into the same yearning he has for a more enthusiastic and earnest Christian life.

Wake up, wake up, O friends ! do not continue and sleep, because it is day-time. Stand up, go and walk out in the open-air to refresh yourselves. Keep yourselves from inactivity and be always on the alert.

It is now that you are running your race. Run, run, run ahead. Strive, strive, strive to acquire that beautiful and honourable crown. Beware, lest your best opportunity comes in vain.

Friends, you can readily anticipate the scope and purpose of what I have to say, nevertheless I will briefly explain my meaning.

First, teachers of heavenly things who proclaim the gospel, you are runners. What is your duty? Secondly ; pupils in heavenly things who hear the gospel, you are the same. What is your duty ?

A teacher of worldly things must know the history, geography, philosophy, literature, etc., of the world; therefore a teacher of heavenly things should know something extra in the kingdom of heaven.

Whether a teacher of worldly things or heavenly, he should carefully, diligently and enthusiastically prepare, and devote himself to his teaching. But the pupils who will by and by be the teachers ought with energy and humility to seek special qualification.

Now you who are teachers in divine things what preparation have you for your work ? And you learners, what good have you learned? You should know yourselves, because our Heavenly Father, the Source of wisdom, would, by his Spirit, give you the White Stone known to every receiver alone. Stir yourselves up, if you are not familiar with it.

Perhaps some preachers, because of their household, are slow and indifferent in self-examination, self-purification, and self-preparation. Some are lazy and slothful ; some hopeless and despairing. This is one reason why our Church is like a lion reposing in sound sleep and dreaming. Although the prosperity of our Church is depending upon God, yet it seems to me partially also upon us. Have you seen any bird get a single grain by simply

sitting in the nest with her mouth open? No, not at all

Therefore stir up, O, friends! help your fellows and persuade them with tenderness and loving kindness.

Be a steamer but never, a hulk. There is abundance of privilege, grace and peculiar treasure provided for us. Do you strive to get it? Let us work with all our heart, our soul, our mind, and all our strength; but never let our great opportunity pass in vain.

LAZARUS WANG.

Obituary.

It is with profoundest feelings of regret and sadness that we hear the news of the death of Dr. O. F. Hall of West China, and of Mrs. E. R. Fulkerson of Nagasaki, Japan. They were both known to be devoted laborers in the service of the Master and it comes as a great loss to all who knew them best. May the Lord raise up laborers to take the place of those whom he is calling up higher.

W. F. W.

Side-Lights on the Central Conference.

The *personel* of the China Central Conference was interesting. It is a delegated body, but visiting members from our Missions were given the privilege of discussion and of service on committees,—not, however, of voting. The largest delegation was, of course, from Foochow, even though not all those elected were present. Next came North China, strongly, though not numerously, represented. Some of their delegates also did not arrive. Of all present, Brother Pyke of North China has served the longest on the field, with more than thirty years experience. Some others were of twenty odd years, some of nearly twenty years, together with some of less than a decade, or even half a decade. Hence, as to age and length of service, we had the enthusiasm of youth, the strength of prime manhood, and the sober wisdom of long experience, but this does not at all imply that age had lost enthusiasm, or that enthusiasm was without wisdom.

And what, pray, had gathered these from the north and the south,—the west, unhappily, was not represented —to this central part of this great empire? There were many things to be done, and these were parcelled out among a number of committees, according to character of subject; publishing, medical, educational, state of the church, etc., etc.; but through all this diversity of workings one idea was uppermost; namely, UNIFICATION. Everything that tended toward division was discouraged; and whatever tended toward harmony of action, whether among the Missions of our own Church, or in our relations with other Missionary bodies, was encouraged.

It is felt that much may be lost through lack of uniformity of management and administration. *Consolidation* wherever possible; *uniformity* of administration in like matters; *comparison of methods* in all kinds of work: these ideas were emphasized.

Of course, among so many, gathered from so distant parts, representing such varied forms of work, it is impossible to get absolute unanimity of thought on every subject. It was noticeable, however, that of any diversity of opinions most of it was not prompted by any selfishness

either of any individual or of any Mission, though some of the subjects of consideration chiefly concerned some one Mission. It was easier to manage an affair of equal concern to all than one of special relation to any one Mission.

As frequently occurs, the work of the most important committee received the least public consideration. The work of the committee on the State of the Church was so great, so diversified, and so important, that the report could not be prepared and presented until the last session of the Conference, when, with many other things, it was put through practically without question or consideration.

One lack was felt by many. There was not sufficient time given to the devotional, the revival, the work of spiritual quickening. Aside from the usual Sunday services and the closing evening session, no time was given for purely religious meetings. There ought to be at least one general meeting each day for no other purpose than spiritual quickening and cultivation. And if our Bishop could take time for such leadership it would wonderfully strengthen our hands, and bind our hearts together in such an unity as can come from no other exercises, and by no other means. If not the Bishop; then some others; but all such conferences would become much greater sources of strength and blessing if the necessary time and occasion were given for the Holy Spirit to do His illuminating, sanctifying, and unifying work.

Nanking is a good place to hold such conferences. The very atmosphere is charged with the spirit of sociability and good-will; and the entertainment is always of such a character as to discourage moroseness and selfishness, and to put people in a healthful spirit of consecration and co-operation, and make them willing to stay and work until their work is done. Upon this occasion Nanking did not fail; which means that the good men and women living there are public-spirited and willing to bear a very considerable burden for the general welfare. It is much better to have our Central Conference in such a place than in Shanghai where there are too many distractions. We are glad the next session is to be held in Foochow.

The work of this, the third session of the Central Conference, will be helpful, as it is far-reaching; and will contribute to lengthening the cords and strengthening the stakes of our beloved Zion in this great empire.

E. J.

Two Very Useful Books.

The China Central Conference of 1899, recommended to be placed in the course of study for native preachers two books, then in course of preparation by the Rev. F. Ohlinger of Foochow. The books are now in print, one on Pastoral and the other on Practical Theology, and are to be had at a very nominal cost. None of our preachers are too poor to afford these books, and none can afford to be without them.

The 牧師之法 Pastoral Theology is a splendid book full of most wholesome instruction from beginning to end. We must train pastors if we ever expect to build up the church of Christ in China. This is the very book to put into the hands of our preachers. Every missionary should see to it, that every preacher under his direction has this book, and the

missionary himself should study it so as to be able to teach it to his preachers. This book is proving most helpful to our theological boys. The scope covered by this book touches our preachers along all lines of pastoral work. The accompanying book 傳道之法 a book on Homiletic is an excellent companion to the above. They are written in easy Wen-li so that any missionary capable of preaching in Chinese is able to teach these books. Put these two books, the Bible and Discipline into the hearts and lives of our native preachers and in a very short time we shall have a far stronger ministry than we now have.

I suggest that these books be at once put into the hands of our preachers and every men looking to entering the traveling connection and those already admitted be required to pass a rigid examination in these books. There is not a book in our present course of study the equal of these books in helpfulness to our native ministry.

These books can be had of the Methodist Publishing House 10 Woosung Road, Shanghai.

DON. W. NICHOLS.

Central Church Nanking.

Bishop Moore in the Western Christian Advocate of Sept. 2nd 1903, referring to the Nanking work has this to say regarding our Central Church property. "Recently, deploring the lack of a permanent place for gospel work in the heart of the city, he (Don W. Nichols) chanced on a bargain with a front on two of the greatest streets. The price and the place could never be duplicated. Strengthened by the brethren, he borrowed money and secured it. It is ideal. After providing $100.00 toward the $4,000 cost, the writer was permitted to preach in the extemporized church, to a congregation that literally swirled in from the streets, and crowded it almost to suffocation. It promises to be the Clark street (Chicago) of our Nanking work, and is the most important enterprise now pressing for consideration. This is where the leaven can be put into the midst of the meal. Will you help?"

These words of the Bishop are none too strong. The importance of this work cannot be overestimated. The need of such a place for our evangelistic work was imperative. We need help at once! We still owe on this property $3200. Of this amount $1200 is now past due and the remainder should be paid by Jan. 1904. This burden is too heavy for Dr. Beebe and the writer to carry. Let all who read this appeal send us something to help out on this debt. Send at once; any amount will be thankfully received, and gratefully acknowledged. Send to Dr. H. K. Carroll, 150 Fifth Ave. N. Y. stating that it is for Central Church, Nanking, China.

DON. W. NICHOLS,
Pastor-in-Charge.
Nanking, China.

Of Interest To Missionaries.

We offer the foreign residents in the Orient, a service that we believe is unequalled. We have been shipping family supplies to China and Japan for thirty years. The experience gained during that time is valuable and those who entrust us with their orders have the benefit of it.

Let it be understood that we do not solicit business on a basis of cheapness. It is not meant by this that we make more profit on the goods that we sell than others do, but that we sell the better class of goods.

Those who have favored us with a visit when passing through San Francisco, have become staunch friends, and customers of long-standing. To sell the best goods the world affords, at a reasonable profit, has been our policy, and it has proven a good policy for us.

There are but three larger retail grocers in America, than this house, but there is none that carries a higher grade of food-stuffs, nor a greater variety. To pack goods of different kinds in a case so as to arrive safely, we consider an art. Our men who do this work, have had long experience, and we receive letters from customers in different parts of the Orient, commending the packing department as being efficient.

The Rev. W. C. Dodd wrote us on October 13th, 1897, on this subject, as follows :—

Cheung Hai, Lao, *viâ* Burma and Rahang,
October 13th, 1897.

Messrs. Goldberg, Bowen & Co.,
San Francisco, Cal., U.S.A.

Dear Sirs :—

It gives me great pleasure to report that the goods which we sent you the order for last February, arrived here a few days ago, by elephant from Cheung Mai. They had come from Bangkok in a native boat, poled all the way : and it is with pleasure that I report to you that they arrived in the best of condition, and so far as examined, are most satisfactory. Thank you for your promptness and your care in packing and forwarding. I have lived in the Orient more than ten years ; and this is the first time that we have received properly packed goods from America. Henceforth I am not going to tell my friends that they must send to England for goods, if they wish them hermetically sealed.

And in due time you shall hear from us in the shape of another order.

With best thanks for kindness, I am,

Yours very sincerely,
W. C. Dodd.

We welcome your letters of inquiry, and will promptly furnish information concerning anything that we handle. You may order supplies from us other than the goods listed in our catalogue, with assurance that the order will be conscientiously and carefully executed.

We buy outside supplies in every possible line almost, and are posted on where to obtain such goods to the best advantage.

We issue a monthly catalogue with prices revised each month, and will cheerfully send it to all who may request it.

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